

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 AEC-11 MC-02 ACDA-19

NEA-10 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4420

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15220

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, UR

SUBJECT: PRAVDA EXPOSES SOVIET-FRENCH RIFT

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

REF: A. PARIS 30079 (NOTAL)

B. PARIS 30799 (NOTAL)

1. PRAVDA COMMENTARY DECEMBER 6, PROTESTING TOO MUCH
ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF SOVIET-FRENCH BILATERAL RELATIONS,
IN FACT BRINGS INTO OPEN STRAINS BETWEEN TWO GEVERN-
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MENTS. IT CONCEDES "CERTAIN DIFFERENCES" BETWEEN TWO

COUNTRIES ON A NUMBER OF UNSPECIFIED QUESTIONS AND SHARPLY ATTACKS FRENCH PRESS FOR SOWING DISCORD. IN REPEATEDLY ASSERTING SOVIET DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION, COMMENTATOR (VOLES LAV SEDYKH) DOWNSPLAYS CORRESPONDING DESIRE BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT, ALLUDING TO IT ONLY ONCE.

2. COMMENTARY SINGLES OUT FOR CRITICISM LE MONDE (FOR WRITING OF COOLING OF RELATIONS) AND L'AURE (FOR "SYSTEMATIC CAMPAIGN" AGAINST DETENTE AND BROADENING OF BILATERAL TIES). SEDYKH QUOTES FIGARO AGAINST TEM, CITING ITS ASSERTION THAT PRINCIPLED POSITION OF SOVIET UNION TOWARD FRANCE REMAINS UNCHANGED.

3. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH US, FRENCH EMBOFF HERE DID NOT STRUGGLE VERY HARD TO HIDE STRAINS IN RELATIONSHIP. HE EXPRESSED AGREEMENT WITH SPECULATION THAT MARCHAIS VISIT HERE NOVEMBER 18-19 PRODUCED DEAL BY WHICH SOVIETS WOULD PERMIT INCREASED PCF ATTACKS ON GOVERNMENT IN RETURN FOR PCF SUPPORT FOR SOVIET-BACKED INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST CONFERENCE. HE SAID HE THOUGH L'AURE ACCOUNT OF FRENCH EXPULSION OF SOVIET COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVES WAS PROBABLY TRUE IN VIEW OF PAPER'S CLOSE TIES TO POLICE. FINALLY, HE SPOKE OF POMPIDOU VISIT IN JANUARY-MARCH TIME FRAME (ALTHOUGH DENYING EXISTENCE OF ANY PRIOR AGREEMENT THAT VISIT WOULD TAKE PLACE IN EARLY JANUARY). IN SHORT, EVIDENCE HERE SUPPORTS EMBASSY PARIS'S EXCELLENT ANALYSIS OF CURRENT STRAINED STATE OF SOVIET-FRENCH RELATIONS (REFTEL B).DUBS

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